

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 AGR-20 EB-11 OMB-01

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /162 W
----- 015621

R 271215Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6707

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1805

E.O. 11652: DECONTROL JULY 31, 1977

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, ENRG, EIND, EAGR, TD, XL

SUBJ: PM WILLIAMS REPORTS ON HIS FINANCING MISSION

REF: (A) POS 1773; (B) POS 1659; (C) POS 1551

SUMMARY

PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS TOLD HIS CABINET JULY 25 ABOUT THE RESULTS OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES TO SEEK FINANCING FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS, AND ABOUT HIS RECENT MEETING IN JAMAICA WITH PM MANLEY AND GUYANA ENERGY MINISTER HERBERT JACK. WILLIAMS SAID THAT HE HAD INVITED AN IDB TEAM TO COME TO TRINIDAD TO ASSIST IN EVALUATING PRIORITIES AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR A NUMBER OF PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE GOTT IS SEEKING FINANCING. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO INFORMED THE CABINET ABOUT A "FOOD PLAN" FOR THE WEST INDIES IN WHICH TRINIDAD'S CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE AMMONIA-BASED FERTILIZERS.

END SUMMARY

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1. ALTHOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT YET MADE HIS EXPECTED
TELEVISED REPORT TO THE NATION (REF A) ABOUT THE RESULTS OF
HIS RECENT TRIP, HIS SPEECH TO THE ACP GROUP IN JAMAICA WAS
BROADCAST HERE AND THE LOCAL PRESS HAS CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF
THE PM'S REPORT TO HIS CABINET MINISTERS ON JULY 25.
ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, THE CABINET APPROVED DR. WILLIAMS'
INVITATION FOR AN IDB TEAM TO VISIT TRINIDAD TO HELP THE
GOTT ASSESS PROPOSALS FOR FINANCING VARIOUS PROJECTS,
INCLUDING THE TRI-NATION JOINT VENTURE ALUMINUM SMELTER,
A CARIBBEAN FOOD PRODUCTION SCHEME, AND A REGIONAL SHIPPING
PLAN.

2. NO DETAILS HAVE BEEN RELEASED ABOUT THE FOOD PLAN, BUT
THE PM ANNOUNCED IN JAMAICA THAT THE TRINIDADIAN CONTRIBUTION
WOULD BE "AN ASSURED AND RELIABLE SUPPLY OF QUALITY FERTILIZERS
MANUFACTURED TO MEET CARIBBEAN SPECIFICATIONS." THE GOTT
WILL HAVE MAJORITY PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROJECT (PRESUMABLY
A NATURAL GAS-BASED AMMONIA FERTILIZER COMPLEX) IN A JOINT
VENTURE WITH AN ANNAMED "MAJOR WEST EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL
ENTREPRENEUR."

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INVITATION TO AN IDB TEAM TO EVALUATE
PRIORITIES AND TO ASSESS POSSIBLE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS UNDER GOTT
CONSIDERATION (REF B) IMPLIES THAT SOME PROGRESS MAY
HAVE BEEN MADE TOWARD FINANCING THE AMBITIOUS ALUMINUM
SMELTER PROJECT. (ARRANGEMENTS FOR A REGIONAL SHIPPING
PROJECT ALSO INVOLVE TRANSPORT OF BAUXITE, ALUMINA AND
ALUMINUM.) PRESS REPORTS FROM KINGSTON HAVE INDICATED
ONLY THAT THE PM SUCCEEDED IN IDENTIFYING "A POSSIBLE
SOURCE OF FINANCING FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY" FOR THE
ALUMINUM SMELTER.

4. COMMENT: WE STILL EXPECT THE PRIME MINISTER TO REPORT
TO THE NATION IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO INDICATE SOME SORT
OF CONCRETE "SUCCESS" FOR HIS FINANCIAL MISSION. MEANWHILE,
THE LOCAL PRESS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL WITH
REGARD TO THE PM'S PRONOUNCEMENTS, NOTING THE LACK OF SUCCESS
WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED PREVIOUS GREATLY-HERALDED AGRI-
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS. FOR OUR PART, WE DOUBT THAT
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THE PM WOULD HAVE EMBARKED ON SUCH A TRIP WITHOUT HAVING
FAIRLY DEFINITE ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD INDEED BE ABLE
TO RETURN WITH EVIDENCE OF AT LEAST PARTIAL SUCCESS FOR HIS
EFFORTS.
MILLER

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